

Dody Goodman

MARY HARTMAN,
MARY HARTMAN

EPISODE #25

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY	LOUISE LASSER
TOM	GREG MULLAVEY
CHARLIE	GRAHAM JARVIS
LORETTA	MARY KAY PLACE
GEORGE	PHIL BRUNS
MARTHA	DODY GOODMAN
DR. HASTINGS	
NURSE	
2 ORDERLIES	
FOLEY	BRUCE SOLOMAN
VOICE (MALE & FEMALE)	

SETS

<u>ACT I</u> (Pg. 1)	<u>MARY'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON</u> (Mary, Female Voice, Male Voice, Tom)
<u>ACT II</u> (Pg. 10)	<u>LORETTA'S HOSPITAL ROOM</u> (Charlie, Loretta, Nurse, 2 Orderlies, Foley)
<u>ACT III</u> (Pg. 18)	<u>HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING</u> (Charlie, Foley)
<u>ACT IV</u> (Pg. 22)	<u>LORETTA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT</u> (Nurse, Charlie, Martha, George, Loretta, Dr. Hastings)
<u>ACT V</u> (Pg. 28)	<u>MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT</u> (Tom and Mary)

ACT ONEMARY'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

MARY SITTING AT HER KITCHEN TABLE,
WATCHING TELEVISION, UPSET.

VOICE

(FEMALE) Oh, dear God, if you'll just
let Timmy live -- I know I don't deserve
it after running away with Sam... and
then with George -- but he's such a
little boy! He hasn't done anything
wrong! If you just give us another
chance, I promise I'll be a fit mother!
Just don't let him die, or be crippled
for life!

SFX: ORGAN MUSIC SWELLING

MARY

(TO HERSELF OR GOD, CHECK ONE) Look, I
really haven't done anything wrong, but
if you could listen anyways -- I mean,
I know I'm not saying this right --

SFX: ORGAN MUSIC OUT

VOICE

(MALE) Pain, pain, pain...

MARY

(CONTINUING) Just if you could let
Loretta be okay?

VOICE

Yes, the pain of sinus headache...

MARY

Because she's really a good person.

VOICE

Throbbing, throbbing, throbbing...

MARY

She deserves another throb -- I mean,
chance. (TURNING OFF THE SET)

THE BACK DOOR OPENS, AND TOM COMES IN.

MARY (CONT'D)

(TRYING FOR LIGHTNESS) Hi, honey.

TOM

Sweetheart... (DOESN'T KISS HER, RATHER
GOES TO THE FRIDGE FOR A BEER)

MARY

Aren't you gonna kiss me hello?

TOM

Think I'm coming down with a cold.

MARY

I'll risk it.

TOM

No, really, honey -- you know, it's flu
season...

MARY

What's wrong? You went to see Mae. Did she give you the flu?

TOM

No! The flu? Would she give me the flu?

MARY

Something happened, Tom.

TOM

Nothing.

MARY

You got a call from that woman at two o'clock in the morning.

TOM

Is there any coffee?

MARY

You got fired.

TOM

I didn't get fired. I just want some coffee.

MARY

The car, we're gonna have a big repair on the car.

TOM

No, honest... just some coffee. Where's the saccharine?

MARY

We don't use saccharine. Ever. It's something horrible.

TOM

Mary, you don't look too good.

MARY

I don't? I've been trying this new
moisturizing cream --

TOM

You look upset.

MARY

I know. I've been watching Wamsutta's
Purpose.

TOM

The one with the girl who murdered her
lover because she had amnesia?

MARY

Right. And now she's going blind. And
then, of course, I've been so upset about
Loretta and Charlie totalling their Vega
into a station wagonful of nuns.

TOM

I know. Do you think it's still on?

MARY

The nuns? What?

TOM

The show. (GOING FOR THE SET)

MARY

Tom! I thought we were talking about Mae!

TOM

I thought we were talking about Loretta
and Charlie?

MARY

Oh, God...!

TOM

That's what Charlie must have said,
all right. I mean, nuns... in uniform...

MARY

... Which has to make it worse. And
Timmy's dying. Of course, you don't
really care about him.

TOM

Timmy?

MARY

On The Secret Night, after Wamsutta's
Purpose. He's not very good. But Marge
has sworn to give up drugs, and that's
something. I've been so nervous.

TOM

I know. You've been thinking about all
those wounded nuns out on the highway --

MARY

I just thank God no one was killed.

TOM

Or even seriously hurt... in the station
wagon.

MARY

They were probably protected, you know...

TOM

Well, in a wagon, there's more structural steel, heavier crossbeams in the doors.

(POURING HIS COFFEE)

MARY

Tom...

TOM

Yeah?

MARY

Why won't you tell me what Mae wanted?

TOM

(WAFFLING) Well, it's kind of personal.

MARY

I'm your wife, I'm being understanding -- what could be that personal?

TOM

Personal to her, Mary. I mean, she said things to me...

MARY

Yeah.

TOM

That were very hard for her to say. She's not a happy woman.

MARY

Well, I can understand...

TOM

What's for dinner?

MARY

I don't know. I was thinking I could give Heather frozen. But the only thing that's left is fried chicken -- I mean, that our marriage is still together!

(STARTS TO KISS HIM)

TOM

Remember, the flu.

MARY

It is back together, Tom, isn't it?

TOM

Absolutely, and I love you --

MARY

Then what's wrong?

TOM

A headache.

MARY

A sinus headache? The pain, pain, throbbing pain...

TOM

From work.

MARY

I'll get you a sinu-tab. And a big glass of milk. How'll that be?

TOM

I've got coffee.

MARY

Then how about some Absorbine Deep-Heat rub? I could rub your back.

TOM

Maybe later.

MARY

You're not telling me everything, Tom?

TOM

I am.

MARY

You're stalling.

TOM

I'm hungry is what I am.

MARY

I'll make something to eat.

TOM

Maybe Heather and I can both have frozen?

MARY

There's only one left. How about a
Boil-in-Bag? I've got Italian spaghetti,
Chow Mein, or Salisbury Steak with
mushroom gravy? And frozen Lime Chiffon
Pie for dessert, if it thaws?

TOM

Great.

MARY

Tom, what is it you can't tell me?

TOM

That I love you. (REACHING FOR HER, STOPS)

MARY

But you can tell me that.

TOM

It may not be as easy as it used to
be.

ON MARY'S CONFUSED EXPRESSION:

FADE OUT.

ACT TWOLORETTA'S HOSPITAL ROOM

WHERE CHARLIE IS TIPTOEING IN WITH
A HUGE BASKET OF FLOWERS. HE'S
BEING VERY QUIET.

LORETTA

I'm not asleep.

CHARLIE

Oh. (BIG SMILE) Well, I just thought...

LORETTA

(BIG SMILE COMING BACK AS SHE SEES WHAT
HE'S GOT) I can see what you thought,
and if you aren't the most considerate,
most wonderful...

CHARLIE

Bald-headed man in Fernwood.

LORETTA

Man in the world! But you shouldn't
have. (AS HE SITS DOWN BY THE SIDE OF
HER BED) I know how much that cost!

CHARLIE

No one can put a price on how much love
I feel for you, and I just wanted to
bring something.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Since I'm not the one in the family with
a voice to sing about it. (SHE TOUCHES
HIM) How you feelin'?

LORETTA

Better. Good. I mean, I'm really
feelin'... better, I think. No, I am.

CHARLIE

You sure?

LORETTA

Mmm hmm.

CHARLIE

Been thinking much? The TV ain't on.

LORETTA

Oh, not too much. I was watchin' some
old movie about someone who's got all
these kids... I mean, wouldn't you know?
The one kinda movie I could just as well
do without right now. Besides, I
couldn't get too interested. Are you
okay?

CHARLIE

(NODDING) And guilty as hell that it's
me who is.

LORETTA

Now, don't you talk like that! I mean,
you're gonna have to take care of me
for awhile, and I just thank the good Lord
you're gonna be strong enough to do it.

CHARLIE

Are you thinkin' a lot about the baby?
I mean, the fibroid tumor?

LORETTA

Oh, some. I mean, if it wasn't my time,
I guess it wasn't my time for a reason.
Maybe we just wasn't ready to be a good
Ma and Pa.

CHARLIE

Are you kidding? You would have been the
best! And she would have looked just
like you!

LORETTA

He would looked just like you. Charlie
Haggers, Jr.

CHARLIE

In his Little League suit --

LORETTA

Bald. He woulda looked awful funny playin'
little league without no hair. (BEAT)
You know, I think havin' this baby meant
even more to you than it did to me.

CHARLIE

Aw, hell, Loretta, you think we're quitters?
Just 'cause we got fooled once. We can try
again!

LORETTA

And have twins or triplets, I promise.
But I want you to promise me somethin'.

CHARLIE

What's that, honey?

LORETTA

That you won't get too down in the mouth.

CHARLIE

I'm glad! That you're fine! That's
all I really care about.

LORETTA

'Cause just as soon as I get out of here,
we've gotta start all over.

CHARLIE

I know it, honey.

LORETTA

I mean, one little car wreck can't keep
a good ol' country girl like me down. I
gotta go to Nashville! I gotta get me
a recordin' contract, and make guest
appearances on the Merv Griffin Show --

CHARLIE

They're gonna devote the whole ninety
minutes to you!

LORETTA

They will! (SINGS) "Cause... when you're
lookin' at me, you're lookin' at country...

A NURSE ENTERS.

NURSE

Mr. Brady?

CHARLIE

(LOOKING UP) Hagers. Must have the
wrong room.

NURSE

No, no -- Hagers, of course. I just
have the wrong chart -- I mean, the
wrong name. We have to take Mrs. Brady
down now, for X-rays.

CHARLIE

Hagers.

NURSE

I'm sorry.

TWO ORDERLIES ENTERING, LIFTING LORETTA
ONTO A GURNEY.

LORETTA

X-rays for what?

CHARLIE

It'll be all right, honey.

NURSE

You just don't have to worry about a
thing, Mrs. Brady.

LORETTA

Loretta...

NURSE

What a sweet name.

CHARLIE

You're sure you got the right room?

NURSE

Oh, yes. Dr. Hastings' patient.

CHARLIE

Dr. Fermin's patient.

NURSE

Oh, yes, that's right here on the chart,
too. But Dr. Hastings is a specialist.

LORETTA

A specialist for what?

NURSE

For you, Mrs. Brady.

LORETTA BEING WHEELED OUT.

LORETTA

Haggers, honey -- Haggers!

NURSE

I am sorry! I've just been relieved.

I mean, I've just relieved Nurse Tilford --

LORETTA

Charlie!

CHARLIE

(CALLING AFTER) It'll be all right,
sweet baby.

NURSE

(SOTTO VOCE) That was very wise, Mr.
Haggers. Reassuring your wife like that.
It's always best in these serious cases
not to get the patient too alarmed.

CHARLIE

Serious cases? What are you talkin' about?

NURSE

Oh, I am sorry! I thought Dr. Hastings ... but I guess he hasn't.

CHARLIE

Hasn't what?

NURSE

Now you just stay here, and I'll have Dr. Moran explain. I'm sorry.

CHARLIE

(STARTING TO FOLLOW AS THE NURSE
DISAPPEARS) Dr. Moran?

FOLEY

(INTERCEPTING HIM IN THE DOORWAY)

Mr. Haggars?

CHARLIE

Yeah? You're sure you don't want Brady?

FOLEY

Not if you're the Charles Everett Haggars who had the vehicular mishap with the nuns.

CHARLIE

How's that?

FOLEY

The wreck?

CHARLIE

Oh, right.

FOLEY

Well, there are a couple of matters I'd
like to discuss with you.

CHARLIE

(WINCING) I don't like the way you
said that.

FOLLOWING FOLEY OUT INTO THE CORRIDOR.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREECORRIDOR, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

FOLEY

Now there's nothing to worry about,
Mr. Haggars -- honest -- I'm just here
on a technicality.

CHARLIE

Well, just so long as there's no more
tragedy or anything. I mean, me and
my wife have gone through just about
all we can go through.

FOLEY

No, it's no more tragedy --

CHARLIE

Like I'm not being sued by the city for
damaging the street or anything.

FOLEY

No, nothing like that. (GETTING OUT
A PAD AND PENCIL)

CHARLIE

I'm getting a ticket.

FOLEY

No, Mr. Haggars, no citation --

CHARLIE

The nuns are suing me.

FOLEY

I think it's been determined that the mishap was the fault of the other vehicle.

CHARLIE

Sister Bernadette. She's not a vehicle. She's a nun.

FOLEY

I understand that.

CHARLIE

Well, I just thought you might have been confused. You know some people name their cars? Like Little Susie...?

FOLEY

Or Sister Bernadette.

CHARLIE

Exactly.

FOLEY

I'm here about the personal property that was recovered from the crash site.

CHARLIE

Oh, that's right!

FOLEY

That is, the property that wasn't destroyed in the fire.

CHARLIE

The what?

FOLEY

The fire. Your car was completely gutted.

CHARLIE

Well, I know there was some smoke --

FOLEY

Gutted, Mr. Hagers. (CHECKING HIS LIST) We have two charred suitcases --

CHARLIE

I don't care about the suitcases!

FOLEY

A picnic hamper, canteens...

CHARLIE

All I care about is the demonstration record!

FOLEY

Oh, that's right -- your wife's the singer down at the Rosemont!

CHARLIE

The greatest little Country and Western -- you see, we were on our way to Nashville --

FOLEY

There was also a tool kit...

CHARLIE

Just tell me about the damn acetate dubs!

FOLEY

No, I don't see anything like that.

CHARLIE

(GRABBING THE LIST) But there's got to be! We sunk every cent we had into that recordin' session!

FOLEY

I think one of the officers on the scene said he had some glop of plastic off of the back seat -- I don't even think they brought it in --

CHARLIE

Some glop of -- ! That was six cuts of C&W -- ! Our whole future!

FOLEY

If you'll just sign this form, you can pick up your possessions...

CHARLIE LOOKING A LITTLE QUEASY AROUND THE GILLS, REACHES FOR FOLEY'S PENCIL.

CHARLIE

Loretta! What am I gonna tell Loretta?

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURLORETTA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

THE NURSE PUTTING UP A SCREEN AROUND
THE SLEEPING LORETTA. CHARLIE WITH
MARTHA AND GEORGE AT THE DOOR OF THE
ROOM.

MARTHA

See the way she's sleeping. Just like
a baby?

CHARLIE

Well, it's good she's getting her rest.
I just don't know what I'm gonna do when
she wakes up.

MARTHA

You'll help her pull through.

CHARLIE

Well, I'll try, but Jeez -- all her
Dolly Parton inspired costumes are gone,
and her little teddy bear, Scruggsie,
that was burnt up, too.

MARTHA

Scruggsie?

CHARLIE

Named after Earl Scruggs, the greatest
flat-picker in this country?

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And then there's the demonstration record!
How am I gonna tell her about that, George!

MARTHA

(TRYING TO BE HELPFUL) You can always
buy other records. There's Guy Lombardo
and Mitch Miller...

CHARLIE

No! Loretta's record that we were gonna
take to Nashville so she could be a star!

GEORGE

Well, maybe you could just get one of
those little cassette recorders and have
her do the tunes again?

CHARLIE

But the engineers and the overdubs and
the musicians -- you just can't have an
artist sing into a pocket cassette
recorder.

MARTHA

Of course not, George! Loretta's an
artist. You should know that.

GEORGE

I guess I wasn't thinking.

CHARLIE

I just don't know how I'm gonna break it
to her.

MARTHA

Look, don't you think it would be better
if you just went home and got some rest
yourself?

CHARLIE

I can't.

GEORGE

You'll wear yourself out, buddy.

CHARLIE

I've got to stick around in case she
wakes up and needs me. Besides, the
Doc's running some lab tests or X-rays
and I wanna get the results so I can
find out just how long Loretta's gonna
be laid up. After all, I know my
Loretta, and the first thing she's gonna
ask, after she cries a little bit that
we lost the demos, is when we can get
started again.

MARTHA

(SNIFFLING A LITTLE) That's so brave.

CHARLIE

She's a brave little fighter.

GEORGE SLAPPING HIM ON THE BACK.

DR. HASTINGS

(APPEARING AT THE DOOR) Mr. Haggars?

CHARLIE LOOKING UP.

DR. HASTINGS (CONT'D)

I'm Dr. Hastings. Dr. Fermin called me in to consult on your wife's case?

CHARLIE

Oh, yeah, right -- you're the one with the X-rays.

HASTINGS

Right. If I could just speak to you a moment, privately?

CHARLIE

That's okay, Doc. These are close friends of mine, and Loretta over there's takin' a snooze right now...

HASTINGS

I'm afraid the diagnosis isn't good.

CHARLIE

How's that?

HASTINGS

We've read the X-rays several times now, and what we find is severe traumatic shock to the central nervous system caused by several compressed vertebra with a possible compound fracture and resultant bone chips.

GEORGE

I once chipped a bone in my elbow -- that wasn't too serious.

HASTINGS

But here we're talking about injuries to the back.

CHARLIE

What are you trying to say, Doc?

HASTINGS

That surgery will be necessary, Mr. Hagers. And the sooner the better. Of course, I have to tell you there are risks involved.

CHARLIE

What kind of risks?

MARTHA

What kind of surgery? Why? I mean, couldn't you give her one of those neck braces? Sonia Featherstone had a neck brace after her car accident and she was fine.

HASTINGS

I wish it were that simple. But I'm afraid Mrs. Hagers' options are a lot more difficult than that. Either she has the surgery...

CHARLIE

Or?

HASTINGS

Well, if the injury's left untreated,
Mr. Haggars, I'm afraid your Loretta
could be... crippled for life.

ON EVERYBODY'S STUNNED REACTIONS:

FADE OUT.

ACT FIVEMARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

TOM IN BED, ON THE VERY FAR, FAR
EDGE OF THE BED, MARY ON THE PHONE,
ASHEN.

MARY

Oh, my God... oh, God, oh, no...

TOM

What's the matter?

MARY

Look, Mom, I'll talk to you in the
morning. (HANGING UP)

TOM

What's the matter?

MARY

I need a calmativ.

TOM

A what?

MARY

That's what they call tranquilizers
now. (SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE BED)

TOM

Is something wrong with Ma?

MARY

I knew we should have gone to the hospital.

TOM

Your mother's in the hospital?

MARY

No, Loretta. Mom and Dad just got home.

Oh, poor Charlie.

TOM

What happened to Charlie?

MARY

Loretta! That's what happened... oh, I can't believe it! That poor girl. I mean, why? Why would God let something like that happen?

TOM

Like what?

MARY

She'll never walk again...

TOM

(DISBELIEVING) Loretta?

MARY

If she doesn't have this very dangerous operation. She chipped her elbow, I couldn't make out what Mom was saying...

TOM

You don't get crippled from a chipped elbow.

MARY

Well, maybe if you hit nuns. I mean,
who are we to say? Something about her
back... And Charlie's going out of his
mind -- Look, how's your cold?

TOM

What?

MARY

The flu that's going around. Better?

TOM

No -- it's, uh, working its way up from
the back of my throat, you know, a little
sore...

MARY

Is that why you're all the way over on
the other side of the bed?

TOM

Well, if I have a fever or anything...

MARY

(TOUCHING HIS FOREHEAD) You feel cool.

TOM

Maybe I oughta sleep downstairs.

MARY

I won't catch it. I have terrific
resistence. I never catch Heather's
colds... (SNEEZING)

TOM

This is different. Bless you.

MARY

What do you mean? A cold's a cold.
Unless it's complicated by allergy, of
course, and then you have to take an
anti-histamine --

TOM

It's Mae.

MARY

She has an allergy? What?

TOM

No -- I mean, what's bothering me, after
I went to see Mae.

MARY

You said nothing.

TOM

I lied.

MARY

I know you lied, but I figured... Look,
whatever it is, you can tell me.

TOM

She was so miserable, Mary.

MARY

Well, I understand, playing around with
a married man is a miserable thing to do.

TOM

No, I mean lonely and ashamed. You should
have seen it -- I mean, it was her birthday...

MARY

Last night?

TOM

No, two weeks ago --

MARY

What has that got to do with last night?

TOM

She had to tell me something. About her birthday, and this guy she met --

MARY

Another guy?

TOM

Before me. It was pretty heartbreaking, Mary. I mean, there she was -- divorced, alone, no one to even share a Hostess cupcake and a candle with... when Louis Garth drops into town --

MARY

Who's Louis Garth?

TOM

A union man. And at the last minute he called her up and asked her out --

MARY

Oh, that's nice.

TOM

And they spent the night together. That's what she had to tell me.

MARY

But why? I mean, why tell you?

TOM

Because he had something, Mary -- you know, like those films in high school? And now she's got it. I mean, to have something like that happen to you on your birthday...

MARY

Oh, that poor woman. What a terrible, lonely life. I didn't realize. I mean, I hate what you did, Tom. But if I have to share you with anybody --

TOM

You're not sharing me, I swear it!

MARY

-- Then thank heaven it was with some sad, lonely woman who had to spend her birthday all alone and now has venereal disease. (BEAT) Wait. If Mae is sick and you were with her that means you could have it, too.

TOM SIMPLY STARES AT HER.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wait again. When you were with me, wasn't that after you were with --

TOM

(AFTER ANOTHER LONG BEAT) I'm sorry, Mary. I'm really sorry.

MARY MOUTHING THE WORDS, A SILENT ECHO.

FADE OUT.